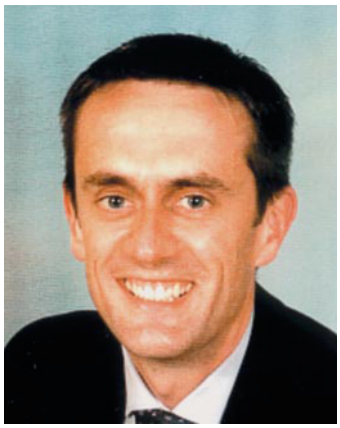
Editorial

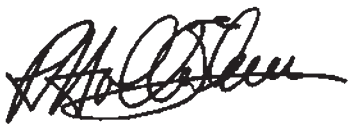


I am sure that all *Gold Bulletin* readers are now aware of the key event in next year's calendar. '**GOLD 2003 – New Industrial Applications for Gold**' promises to be a milestone event for those working in the various subject areas relating to precious metal science and technology. The four conference technical committees covering the themes of catalysis, chemistry, materials and nanotechnology are currently working in collaboration with Technical Programme Co-ordinator, Dr David Thompson to establish a world-class technical programme at this meeting. It should make for 4 full and varied days! The beautiful city of Vancouver is an added attraction to the event and I would urge you to register now at www.gold2003.org to ensure your participation.

The topics covered under the materials theme in Vancouver will include alloys and metallurgy, coating technology, composites and novel materials, decorative technologies, dental and electronic materials and applications, electroless and immersion gold deposition, electroplating and electroforming amongst others. Established industries exist based on many of these technologies and the use of gold in these areas totals around 400 tonnes per year. However, the search for product and process innovation continues and there are many recent, fascinating technical advances that will ensure the materials sessions are a key theme of the conference. Many of these new technologies are regularly described in the *Gold Bulletin* highlights section. I was also recently carrying out a mid-year review of the Council's GROW (Gold Research Opportunities Worldwide) programme (see *Gold Bulletin* Vol 35, 1) and was struck by the prominence of materials related science and technologies in many of the projects that the Council has funded so far. For example, under the GROW programme we have supported the development of innovative new gold electroforming technology for the manufacture of medical implants. Later this year a GROW sponsored project will begin to investigate the potential of mesoporous gold. This project will focus on both metallurgical development of the mesoporous gold and its use in nanotechnology related applications and is an excellent example of the interdisciplinary nature of many of the GROW projects. I expect we will see many papers in Vancouver that span more than one of the conference themes and I look forward to working with my fellow Chairmen in planning a number of jointly focused sessions.

Finally, my thanks go to the members of the Materials Technical Committee who will be reviewing your abstract and paper submissions over the coming months. They are Professor Alan Russell (Iowa State University, USA), Mr Heiner Lichtenberger (Williams Advanced Materials, USA), Dr Franz Simon (OMG Galvanotechnik, Germany), Dr Joerg Fischer Buehner (FEM, Germany), Dr Jef M. van der Zel (Elephant Dental B.V., The Netherlands), Mr Takaya Shimada (Tanaka KKK, Japan), Professor Yuantao Ning (Kunming Institute of Precious Metals, China), Mr Akira Nishio (Mitsubishi Materials, Japan).

We all look forward to seeing you in Vancouver!



Richard Holliday
Chairman, Materials Technical Committee
GOLD 2003